

## THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

August 2011 – Week 3

Air Date: August 14 – August 20 (Sunday – Saturday)



### TITLE: SHAKIN' PECOS

AUGUST 1931 AND THERE'S A RUMBLE IN THE DESERT.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

AUGUST 16, 1931. VALENTINE IN WEST TEXAS. IT BEGAN JUST AFTER FIVE-THIRTY IN THE MORNING. FIRST, JUST A TREMBLE, SOON GROWING INTO A RUMBLE. WALLS CRACK, WINDOWS SHAKE LOOSE AND BRICK CHIMNEYS CRASH TO THE GROUND.

ACROSS THE TRANS-PECOS, TEXANS AWAKE TO THE LARGEST EARTHQUAKE IN STATE HISTORY – MEASURING 6.4 ON THE RICHTER SCALE.

IN VALENTINE, THE SCHOOLHOUSE AND EVERY OTHER BRICK BUILDING IS DAMAGED AND THE QUAKE IS FELT AS FAR AWAY AS SAN ANTONIO.

BUT NEWSPAPERS REPORT SOME FRUSTRATION FOR THOSE WHO SLEPT THROUGH THE HISTORIC EVENT.

THE BIGGEST TEXAS QUAKE OCCURRED 80 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

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Erika Murr, "EARTHQUAKES," *Handbook of Texas Online*

(<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/yde01>), accessed August 5, 2011. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Texas Earthquake History, U.S. Geological Survey website, accessed August 5, 2011

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/states/texas/history.php>

[http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/states/events/1931\\_08\\_16.php](http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/states/events/1931_08_16.php)

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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